

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following represents a complete listing of the claims in this application including the present status thereof and including any amendments made by this paper. In this paper, claims 1 and 25 have been amended.

Listing of the claims:

1(currently amended). A method for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances of interest after removal from a first user comprising a step of causing said abusable substance of interest that remains in a patch device as removed from a first user to contact a separately stored anti-abuse substance selected from the group consisting of binding agents which immobilize and deactivate said abusable substance, and combinations thereof with co-soluble antagonists and/or irritants ~~and combinations thereof~~ in a manner which negates re-use of said transdermal patch thereby reducing the potential for abuse.

2(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

3(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that includes activated

carbon.

4(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

5(original). A method as in claim 3 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

6(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

7(original). A method as in claim 3 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

8(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said abusable substance is an opioid.

9(original). A method as in claim 8 wherein said abusable drug includes a compound of fentanyl.

10(original). A system for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances after administration to a first user comprising:

- (a) a disposable container having an opening therein to receive a skin-worn patch device containing a residual amount of an abusable substance therein;
- (b) a layer containing an amount of an anti-abuse substance selected from the group consisting of binding agents for said abusable substance in said patch device, co-soluble antagonists, irritants and

combinations thereof, said layer being disposed in said container in a manner such that a skin-worn patch device properly inserted into said container will cause said abusable substance to contact said layer containing said anti-abuse substance; and

- (c) closure means for closing said container containing a used skin-worn patch device.

11(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse layer contains a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

12(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

13(original). A system as in claim 11 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

14(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

15(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

16(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said container is in the form of a flexible pouch.

17(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said closure device includes an adhesive seal.

18(original). A system for reducing potential for substance

abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances after administration to a first user, said system comprising:

- (a) an anti-abuse layer containing an amount of an anti-abuse substance for said abusable substance in said patch device selected from the group consisting of binding agents for said abusable substance in said patch device, co-soluble antagonists, irritants and combinations thereof disposed in said patch device;
- (b) a layer containing an amount of said abusable substance in said patch device spaced from said layer containing said anti-abuse substance;
- (c) a separator membrane situated between said layer containing said amount of said anti-abuse substance and said layer containing said abusable substance preventing contact therebetween; and
- (d) a connector means for automatically removing said separator membrane from said patch upon detachment of said patch from a user thereby allowing the anti-abuse layer and the abusable substance layer to become engaged.

19(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse layer contains a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from

the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

20(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

21(original). A system as in claim 19 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

22(original). A system as in claim 16 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

23(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an antagonist.

24(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said connector means for automatically removing said separator membrane includes a device that adhesively attaches to the skin of a user and pulls said separator from said patch upon detachment of said patch from a user.

25(currently amended). A method for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances of interest after removal from a first user comprising steps of:

- (a) providing an amount of an anti-abuse substance maintained separated from said abusable substance of interest;
- (b) causing said abusable substance of interest that remains in a patch device as removed from a first user to contact said anti-abuse substance; and

(c) wherein said anti-abuse substance is selected from the group consisting of binding agents which immobilize and deactivate said abusable substance, and combinations thereof with co-soluble antagonists, and/or irritants and combinations thereof which, when contacting said abusable substance, negates re-use of said transdermal patch devices.

26(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

27(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that includes activated carbon.

28(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said abusable substance is an opioid.

29(original). A method as in claim 28 wherein said abusable drug includes a compound of fentanyl.

30(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance is stored in a pouch and step (b) involves inserting a removed patch into the pouch.

31(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance is stored in a layer separated by a removable

membrane from the abusable substance and wherein in step (b) removing the patch causes the membrane to be removed and the abusable substance to contact the anti-abuse substance.

32(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

33(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of a co-soluble antagonist.